

THE NEWS OF

HUNGARIAN PHILATELY

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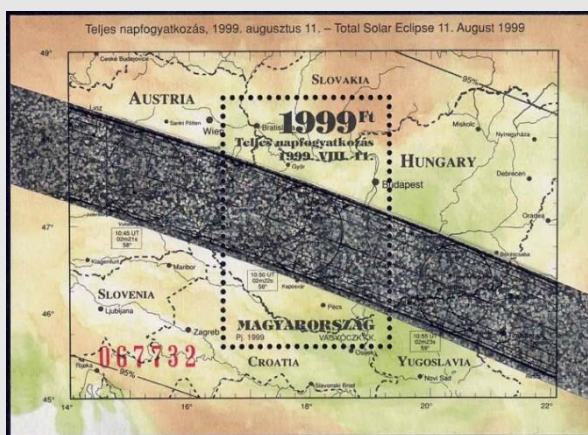
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Twenty-five years ago on February 11, 1999, Magyar Posta issued this souvenir sheet to mark the total solar eclipse in central Europe that was to occur on August 11, 1999.

SOCIETY FOR HUNGARIAN PHILATELY

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Established 1969

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The Society for Hungarian Philately (SHP) is a non-profit organization chartered under the laws of the State of Connecticut and is devoted to the study of every aspect of Hungarian philately. SHP publishes a quarterly newsletter in March, June, September, and December. Manuscripts for publication may be sent to the Society's address or to the Editor's e-mail address listed above. The articles published herein represent the opinions of the individual authors and the content is not to be construed as official policy of this Society or any of its officers. All publication rights are reserved for SHP. Articles from this journal may be reprinted only with the written permission of the Editor and the authors. Back issues of the newsletter may be purchased for \$4.00, if available, plus postage.

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This issue closed on 1 March 2024.



The next issue will close on 15 June 2024.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by **Alan Bauer**

Hello everyone, in this issue, I would like to talk about our participation in two major shows that are on the horizon and conclude with a very special topic.

This year, the Great American Stamp Show (GASS) will occur in August in Hartford, CT. I will be attending, as I am sure many of our other members will be. It will be a wonderful opportunity to attract new members, so let us have a big showing there. GASS 2024 will take place at the **Connecticut Convention Center (100 Columbus Blvd., Hartford, CT 06103)** on August 15-18, 2024. The Center is located just fifteen miles from Bradley International Airport and is connected to the host hotel, the Hartford Marriott Downtown. While the blocks of rooms at the Marriott are full, they have opened blocks of rooms at other nearby hotels. You can find information about hotels with show room rates, how to reserve your room, and transportation here:

<https://stamps.org/great-american-stamp-show/travel>

Please let me know if you will be attending. I will be happy to help you with any arrangements.

The other major show that I would like to get our members to start thinking about is the World Stamp Show in Boston on May 23-30, 2026. This will be a one-week show and will be held at the Boston Convention Center in the bustling Seaport district. There are many things to do there, so if you can plan to spend several days there that would be great. It is my home city, so I will be happy to help anyone find things to do outside of the stamp show. Spring is a wonderful time to be in the metro Boston area. Diane and I are volunteers for the show sponsors (both the APS and the ATA), so we will be heavily involved in the planning. Please mark down those dates and let us meet in Boston.



On March 10th, we had a very special celebration to honor Bob Morgan's 100th birthday at a restaurant near his place in Los Angeles. A wonderful time had by all and Diane and I were fortunate to be able to go back to Bob's house and spend 4 hours chatting with him after the party. I presented Bob with the first SHP Founders Lifetime Achievement Award and in the future, we look forward to presenting it to other deserving members who follow in Bob's footsteps. Károly Szücs travelled from Hungary to present him with the Gabor Visnyovski Award for Lifetime Achievement from MAFITT.

Have an enjoyable spring and as always, ... happy stamping!



WELCOME

A very warm welcome to our bumper crop of new members to start 2024: Dale Vargo of Louisville, Kentucky; Marvin Fullerton of South Easton, Massachusetts; Edward Waters of Richfield, Ohio; Sarah Giavedoni of Asheville, North Carolina; Maria Guoth of Greenwich, Connecticut; Jeffrey Lutz of Walled Lake, Michigan; Patricia Di Nicola of Titusville, Florida; Tamas Gilbert of Chestnut Ridge, New York; Martin Burke of Hollywood, South Carolina; Craig Telfer of Kirkland, Washington; Michael N. Schneider of Tampa, Florida; Larry Skalak of Medina, Ohio; Mariann Csatlós of Hódmezővásárhely, Hungary; and Janos Toth of Nyiradony, Hungary. I do hope you all enjoy reading **The News** and that some of you write Letters to the Editor and articles to include in it. And, to our new members from Hungary - *Isten hozott!*



SHP TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2023

by **Wes Learned**

SOCIETY FOR HUNGARIAN PHILATELY			
Treasurer's Report - Ending 12/31/2023			
submitted by Wes Learned, Treasurer			
Beginning Balance 1/1/2023	\$10,361.19	Expenses:	
(Checking - First Wyoming Bank)		Newsletter (4 issues):	
		Printing	\$1,410.42
Income:		Postage	\$1,062.67
Auction Deposits	\$2,347.96	Envelopes	\$247.19
		Supplies	\$0.00
Donations:		Mileage to Ottawa	\$97.88
Regular	\$224.51	Mngt Fees	\$3.06
Matching funds challenge	\$0.00	Auction Inserts	\$117.89
Match	\$0.00	Other Expenses:	
		Show Registrations	\$60.00
Sales:		Newsletter Exhibit Fee	\$55.00
Books	\$0.00	State of CT Corp. Filing Fee	\$50.00
News & Website Ads	\$391.02	Zoom Renewal	\$149.90
		Tax Conference w/CPA	\$100.00
Dues	\$1,479.00	Tri-fold SHP applications	\$25.00
		Publication Advertisement	\$55.00
Interest Earned (added to CD's)		Total Expenses	\$3,434.01
(checking)	\$0.00	Ending Balances 12/31/2023	
(1 yr. CD)**	\$44.95	First Wyoming Checking	\$11,369.67
(91 Day CD's)**	\$4.39	First Wyoming CD's (91 day)	\$1,008.89
		First Wyoming CD 1 Yr	\$10,044.95
Total Deposits:	\$4,442.49		
CD Redemptions	\$0.00	Auction Account Checking	\$1,000.00
Beginning Balance plus Deposits	\$14,803.68		
		Total Assets	\$23,423.51



THE SHP AUCTIONEER'S REPORT FOR 2023

by **Anna Trischan**

2023 Auctioneer's Report					February 19, 2024	
		2022D	2023A	2023B	2023C	Totals
No. of lots listed		95	100	113	105	413
No. of lots sold		70	70	62	50	269
No. of bids		162	112	93	73	487
No. of Bidders		18	17	18	15	
No. of Consignors		11	9	9	12	
Amount sold		\$1,670.50	\$848.00	\$1,014.50	\$1,831.00	\$5,364.00
Comm. and Donated		\$607.18	\$568.42	\$696.66	\$658.72	\$2,530.98
Many thanks as always to our bidders, consignors, and donors for continuing to make our auction program a success. The total proceeds to the club increased approximately \$90 over last year's total.						
Respectfully submitted,						
Anna Trischan						
SHP Auctioneer						



THE RUMINATIONS OF YOUR EDITOR

by **Robert Lauer**

I must apologize for the tardiness of this issue of **The News**. Between catching some plague (not Covid, but worse from my perspective) at the Garfield-Perry March Party show in Cleveland in mid-March and a Canadian tax filing deadline at the end of March, I did not get to finishing this edition of **The News** until mid-April.

When I received my copy of the December issue of the *Stamps of Hungary*, the quarterly journal of our sister society in the UK, the Hungarian Philatelic Society of Great Britain (HPSGB), I was saddened to learn about the passing of Mark Lendon, an active member of the HPSGB and the author of a very valuable work on the Romanian occupation overprints of Nagyvárad and Kolozsvár. Mark was at our May 2023 Zoom session where Chris Brainard did his Expert Presentation on the constant plate varieties in these issues. I never had the pleasure to meet Mark personally, but corresponded with him often on our shared areas of interest. It is not often that someone's obituary and their last article shows up in the same issue of a philatelic journal, but this same issue of the *Stamps of Hungary* also contained Mark's article "The Transition to Romanian Postal Services in Arad, 1918-22", which was not only a fascinating read, but also answered my questions about another piece that I picked up in Cleveland at the Great American Stamp Show in August last year .

The commercial cover below, from a hardware and tool supplier in Arad to a company in Vienna, was cancelled at the Arad 1 post office on March 20, 1919. March 20th was the date of the so-called “Vix Memorandum” sent from the head of the Entente military mission in Budapest, Lieutenant-Colonel Vix, to the Károly government in Budapest demanding the withdrawal of Hungarian forces back behind a line from Szeged to Debreczen. This precipitated the resignation of the Hungarian government, the communist/socialist coup of the following day that brought to power Béla Kun and the declaration of the Hungarian Soviet Republic on March 21st.



While the French had been occupying Arad since December 30, 1918, they did not start censoring mail until March 23, 1919 in response to concerns over the spread of Bolshevism from the new government in Budapest, which explains the lack of a French censor marking on this cover. I suspect that Mark would have enjoyed seeing a scan of this cover as there are probably not many items still around with a later date in March 1919 from Arad that have not been censored.

For the main piece in this issue of **The News**, I have taken John Sevenhuijsen’s advice and turned my Expert Zoom Presentation on the postal history of South Hungary into an article, which is something I encourage the other Zoom presenters from our pandemic era series of Expert Presentations to do – there is a lot of really good research in these presentations that needs to be written-up. This issue is rounded out with a contribution from Jan Jaap de Weerd on his taking over the management of the list of Control Numbers maintained by Bob Morgan and Letters to the Editor from Jan, Csaba Kohalmi and Lőrinc Borda. Gentlemen, thank you for your contributions, much appreciated.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR: MÁRTON CHRISTMAS CARD



Just a quick comment on the article about the Márton Christmas card to Romania in the last issue of **The News** – the 46 in a circle is not the number of a Hungarian censor, there is no trace of any censoring on the part of the Hungarian authorities. It is the typical number of a Romanian censor.

Interesting enough, it looks like the faint markings on the front show the same number but mirror wise. The censor must have stamped his number on several items in a row fast enough for the ink not to have dried when he put them on the stack.

Jan Jaap de Weerd



LETTER TO THE EDITOR: ARAD COVERS

I found the three covers illustrated below on eBay in January 2024, which need to be added to the table on page 25 of my article in the October-December 2023 issue of **The News** “Lessons Learned from Examining Arad Occupation Overprint Covers with Mixed Frankings”.



It's only the second full set of 3 Domany covers that I have found. Interestingly, each envelope has the name of a different person in the address; this proves my point that these were fabricated ahead of time and never went through the mails. Note the random numbering in the registry labels.

Envelope serial number number of stamps	number of stamps	Arad canceller / time of day *	Arad backstamp / time of day *	Registry label # / Express=Hungarian Durch Eilboten Exprés=German
461a	15	1-R N8		R1508 / Express
461b	11	1-R N8		R1488 / Express
461c	8	1-R N8		R511 / Express

In early March, an eBay seller from the Netherlands offered a whole bunch of occupation stuff, many covers on album pages from someone's collection. There were a couple of items worth illustrating in addition to those in my article.



A first day cover set #523a/b cancelled Arad 1-U, May 54, 1919 at 9:00AM, registry #5637/5638 with Durch Eilboten Exprès labels. The first envelope was altered: one stamp was cut from the original and replaced with an 'on paper' cutout of a 10f Magyar Posta Harvester stamp. The unusual feature of these covers are the red 523 serial numbers. '523' places it after the serial numbers of the 'Domány' covers so, for some reason, it was not numbered in sequence with the other large format covers. Had they been sequenced correctly, these covers with 43 stamps should have had a serial numbers in the low 200s. They sold on eBay for around \$110.

Another cover that caught my attention from the same seller was a mixed franking (Arad/Szeged) fabricated philatelic souvenir similar to the ones shown in my article.



This 'mixed franking item' was cancelled Arad 3-C on July 12, 1919 and backstamped Máriapécška, July 12, 1919. It's addressed in the same handwriting as items 7, 8, and 9 from my article. The Máriapécška 'D' backstamp shows the same aberration (inking above the day of the month and the time of day as if the wheels of the canceller were not properly aligned) as the backstamp shown in cover #19 in my article. Why would the 'D' canceller set to different dates one week apart show the same problem consistently?!?!

Csaba L. Kohalmi



LETTER TO THE EDITOR: KRAJCÁR ISSUE STATISTICS – A REQUEST TO FELLOW COLLECTORS FOR INFORMATION ON 3FT WATERMARK POSITIONS



In order to make the collecting public more aware of the many interesting facets of the Krajcár issues, I have started to put together the results of my research on various aspects of this issue over the past decade, which I intend to present once it is complete. However, given that "all information is data", I would like to ask my fellow collectors if they could provide me with information from their collections on several specific topics to supplement my own data.

As a first step in my analysis of the Krajcáros, I would like to collect information on the watermark positions of the 3 ft stamp of this issue which is illustrated on the left.

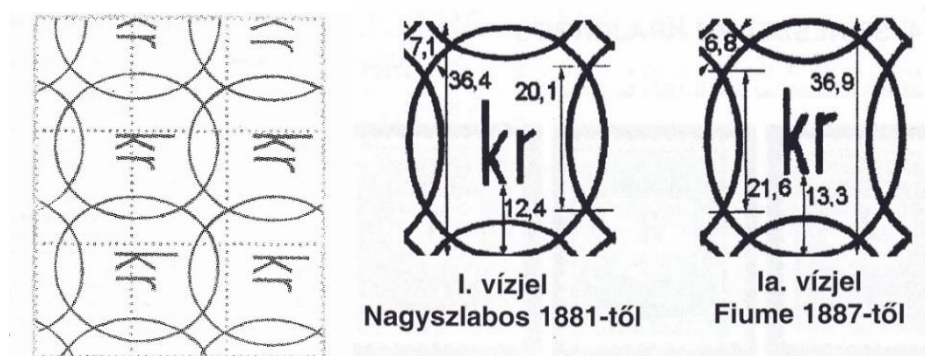
If any of you have complied data on how many of the various watermark positions (B1, B2, B3 and B4) of this stamp you have in your collection, as well as how many pieces you have on which the watermark position cannot be determined, can you please send me these results at the e-mail

address 1888@costacatalog.com. If you do have any 3 ft stamps in your collection, but have not compiled this data yet, could you please take a look at these stamps for the position of the watermarks and send me the results.

If possible, could you also send me photos/scans of any stamps with watermarks in positions B2 and B4. I will publish the statistical data with the names either anonymous or attributed, according to the personal request of the sender. Thank you in advance for your helpful contributions to my Krajcár issue research.

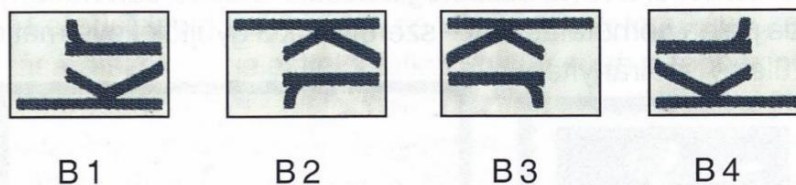
Lőrinc Borda

Editor – The 3Ft stamp from 1888 was printed on paper with a watermark of a large “kr” in an oval, which generally covers four stamps, as illustrated below on the left (Source: A magyar bélyegek kézikönyve). While the Scott and Stanley Gibbons catalogues only recognize a single version of the watermark (Wmk. 132 in Scott and W3 in Stanley Gibbons), Hungarian catalogues recognize two versions of this watermark depending upon who supplied the paper to the State Printing House. The differences between these two versions of the “kr in oval” watermark are illustrated below on the right (Source: A magyar bélyegek katalógusa).



From 1881 to 1887, a paper mill in Nagyszlabos owned by First Hungarian Paper Industries supplied the paper for the printing of postage stamps; this paper contained watermark I, using the scheme in Hungarian catalogues. From 1887, paper was supplied by a mill owned by Smith and Meynier in Fiume, which contained watermark Ia. Given that the 3Ft stamps were printed in 1888, the watermark on these stamps is Ia.

FEKVŐ vízjelek:



Depending upon which way the paper was fed into the printing press, this watermark can present itself in four different ways, as illustrated in the diagram above (Source: A magyar bélyegek katalógusa). The position of the watermark is as seen from the front of the stamp (the side with the design on it).



LIST OF CONTROL NUMBERS AND THEIR ASSIGNMENT TO POST OFFICES

by **Jan Jaap de Weerd**

For many years, Robert Morgan, our specialist on the Hungarian Hyperinflation of 1945-46, has been compiling a list of control numbers and their assignment to the corresponding post offices. These control numbers were used to evidence cash payment of postage (or part thereof) during the hyperinflation.

These control numbers were originally introduced in connection with the processing of postal money orders. (*Ed. – See back cover for examples.*) From 1922 until the Hyperinflation, these control numbers were also used on registered mail but only when the post office in question did not have any registry labels in stock. An example of this use is illustrated below. More background information on this is available in Robert B. Morgan, The Hungarian Hyperinflation of 1945-1946, p. 53.



Control number 6429 of the KÓPHÁZA post office on a registered long-distance letter of the first weight class dated 14 March 1945. Although it was marked as a field post letter and would have been accepted as such due to the address (Ritter von Speck barracks in Regensburg), it was correctly franked according to the rates valid until 30 April 1945, with 30 fillér for the letter and 70 fillér for registration.

Since the middle of this year, I have taken over the task of continuing to update this list of the control numbers used by post offices during the Hyperinflation – the period from May 1, 1945 to July 31, 1946. If you have any postal items in your collection with these control numbers on them, please send me the details at deweerd54@gmail.com. I would be grateful for any report. Pictures/scans of any item would also be welcome, with the aim of creating an up-to-date database of images. All collector friends who contribute to the expansion of this compilation will be mentioned with each publication. The latest version of the list can always be requested from me.

✱

THE POSTAL HISTORY OF THE BÁNÁT AND BÁCSKA (SOUTH HUNGARY), 1918-1920

by **Robert Lauer**

The Bánát and Bácska area of South Hungary is comprised of four counties, from west to east: Bács-Bodrog, Torontál, Temes and Krassó-Szörény. Most of the area was occupied by both the Serbian and Romanian Armies and almost all of it was ultimately divided between these two countries, with a small northern part of the Bács-Bodrog being returned to Hungary. The postal administration of these four counties was managed by the Temesvár Postal Directorate. Cut off from Budapest by the Serbian occupation, it established its own postage rates and issued its own overprinted and surcharged stamps. As such, it is almost a microcosm of the foreign occupations of the Kingdom of Hungary at the end of the First World War. The result is an extremely interesting, if at some points somewhat murky, philatelic history.

The Belgrade Military Convention, the armistice that ended the First World War on the southern “Balkan” front, was negotiated between the new republican Hungarian government of Count Mihály Károlyi and the leader of the Entente’s Armée d’Orient, the French General Franchet d’Espèrey and signed on November 13, 1918. The agreement stipulated that Hungarian forces were to withdraw to the north of Arad and Szeged, both of which would be occupied by French troops, and that the Serbian Army would occupy the area to the south and west of the Demarcation Line marked by the dotted line on the map in Figure 1.



Figure 1: the four counties of the Temesvár Postal Directorate in 1918.

Before the ink was dry on the agreement, the Serbian Army crossed the Danube and Dráva rivers and marched north to occupy the cities of Zombor, Szabadka and Baja, northwest of Zombor, in the Bácska on November 13th, Pécs and Mohács in Baranya, to the west, on November 15th, and Temesvár in the Bánát on November 17th. In the east, the Serbian advance carried them well beyond the Demarcation Line, occupying Lugos and the western half of Krassó-Szörény by November 25, 1918. Under pressure from the Entente, the Serbs withdrew back to the Demarcation Line over the course of January 1919.

The Belgrade Military Convention also specified, though, that Hungarian civil administration was to remain in effect in areas occupied by Entente forces pending the final disposition of these areas through the peace treaties to formally end the War. This meant that Hungarian currency was to remain the legal tender and the Hungarian postal administration was to remain in place – Hungarian stamps and postal stationery were to remain valid and Hungarian postal tariffs were to continue to be used.

For the most part, this is what actually occurred on the ground, at least initially. The main differences between occupied and un-occupied Hungary were in the mix of postage stamps used and, in some instances, the continued use of stamps that were no longer valid for postage in unoccupied Hungary. Just after the Serbian Army completed its occupation of the Bánát and Bácska, on November 23, 1918, the Hungarian post office overprinted existing stocks of the postage stamps issued during 1916-18 with “KÖZTÁRSASÁG”. While some of these stamps did wind up making their way through the Serbian lines to post offices in the Bánát and Bácska, it is much less common to find mail franked with the “KÖZTÁRSASÁG” overprints in these occupied areas of Hungary, whereas in unoccupied Hungary, it is rare to find mail franked with these stamps un-overprinted, especially ones from the Károly-Zita series.

Table 1 sets out the main Hungarian postal rates in effect during the period immediately following the Serbian occupation of the Bánát and Bácska.

Table 1: Hungarian Postal Tariffs, 15 June 1918 - 31 December 1919

	Inland Rates	Foreign Rates
Postcards	10f	10f
Letters/PSLC*	20f	25f
+ per additional 20 gr	5f	15f
Printed Matter	3f	5f
Registration	25f	25f
Express	60f	

* Local letters were 15f up to 20 grams.

SOCIETY FOR CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY

If you collect the stamps or postal history of Czechoslovakia, the Czech Republic or Slovakia, you may want to consider joining the Society for Czechoslovak Philately. Annual Membership comes with 4 issues of *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, access to the society Library, member's rates for purchasing books and expertization services. You can join on the society website – www.csphilately.org or contact

Marisa Galitz
PO Box 646
Owings Mills, MD 21117
mmgalitz@gmail.com



Figure 2: letter from Temesvár 2 to Schüttenhofen, Czechoslovakia cancelled January 12, 1919.



Figure 3: letter from Lugos to Bern, Switzerland cancelled January 2, 1919.

Figure 2 is a letter posted from Temesvár 2 to Schüttenhofen, in newly created Czechoslovakia on January 12, 1919, almost 2 months after the Serbian occupation of the Bánát. The two 10 fillér stamps bearing the likeness of King Károly paid the 20 fillér Hungarian rate for an inland letter, which still applied to mail posted to the lands of the former Habsburg Empire. Figure 3 is a letter posted from Lugos to Bern, Switzerland cancelled January 2, 1919, six and a half weeks after the

Serbian occupation of the area and almost certainly before the Serbian withdrawal from the town. The 5 fillér Harvester and 20 fillér King Károly stamps paid the standard 25 fillér Hungarian rate for an international letter.



Figure 4: a registered postal stationery letter card from Plosicz to Vienna, Austria cancelled December 25, 1919.

The postal stationery letter card in Figure 4 was sent from Plosicz a small town in the southern tip of Temes County (now Pločica in Serbia located just north of the Danube on a bend in the river west of Belgrade) on December 25, 1918, almost 6 weeks after the signing of the Belgrade Military Convention. The date line in the cancel has been rearranged to Month-Day-Year from the original Hungarian format, probably by an over-zealous postal employee of Serbian extraction. It is also under-franked, but with no sign of any postage due being charged. The current Hungarian rate for a postal stationery letter card was 20 fillér, but this card was probably processed as a postal stationery card, as the then current Hungarian post card rate was 10 fillér. The registration fee of 25 fillér is correct, but the 25 fillér Turul stamp that paid the registration fee, had not been valid for postage since December 31, 1917. I suspect that the difficulty in getting new stock from Temesvár to the outlying areas of the Temesvár Postal Directorate during the Serbian occupation led to a general shortage of postage stamps at these remote post offices and to the use of any postage stamps at hand, with little regard for whether they had previously been invalidated.

Since the beginning of the Serbian occupation, communication with, and shipments of new postage stamps from, Budapest had been at best sporadic and at worst non-existent. By the spring of 1919, any relationship with Budapest had been severed due to the chaos resulting from the seizure of power by Béla Kun and the communists in March. In May 1919, the Temesvár Postal Directorate decided to surcharge some of the large quantities of two obsolete stamps in its inventory with more useful rates. The 2 fillér Harvester from the 1916 issue, which was originally issued for the domestic printed matter rate and was now pretty well useless given the increase in this rate to 3



Figure 5: the stamps of the first Temesvár issue under Serbian occupation.

occupation are illustrated in Figure 5 at left. For whatever reason, these stamps were not widely distributed to the various post offices in the Bánát and Bácska and their use on non-philatelic mail is not that common.

Regular Hungarian postal tariffs remained in effect in all four counties of the Temesvár Postal Directorate until June 30, 1919. Figure 6 is a postal stationery card sent from Nagykikinda to Pancsova, both in Torontál County, on May 22, 1919. The 10 fillér indicium of the card paid the then current Hungarian postcard rate.

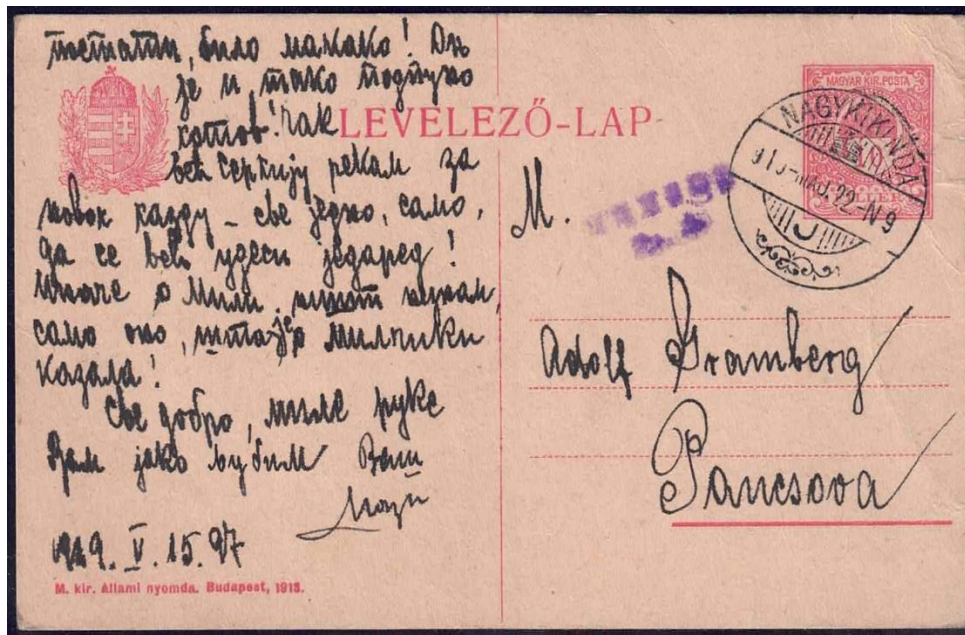


Figure 6: a postal stationery card sent from Nagykikinda to Pancsova cancelled on May 22, 1919.

The severing of any relationship with General Postal Directorate in Budapest also meant that the Temesvár Postal Directorate was on it own from a financial perspective – its own revenue was the only source of funds for paying its employees. With its coffers empty, the Temesvár Postal

Directorate decided to increase the postal tariffs in effect for the four counties under its administration effective July 1, 1919. Table 2 sets out these “Temesvár” postal rates.

Table 2: The Temesvár Postal Directorate Tariffs from 1 July 1919

	Inland Rates	Foreign Rates
Postcards	30f	30f
Letters/PSLC	50f	75f
+ per additional 20 gr	20f	[25f]*
Printed Matter	10f	15f
Registration	1K	75f
Express	2K	1K

* The 25 fillér rate for each additional 20 grams for foreign letters has been inferred from actual mailings.

The Temesvár Postal Directorate also issued four surcharged regular stamps and three postage due stamps consistent with the new postage rates. These seven stamps are illustrated in Figure 7. The 30 fillér stamp paid the inland and foreign postcard rate, the 50 fillér stamp the inland letter rate and the 1 Korona 50 fillér stamps the cost of both an inland and foreign registered letter.



Figure 7: the seven stamps of the second Temesvár issue under Serbian occupation.

Many of the stamps of this second Temesvár issue were distributed to postal employees in lieu of wages, who in turn sold them to dealers and collectors. Again, the non-philatelic use of these stamps on mail is relatively rare.

In June 1919, the new Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes (SHS Kingdom) and Romania came to an agreement on the partition of the three counties of the Bánát with Romania getting the area to the east and north of the shaded line on the map in Figure 1 and the SHS Kingdom getting the area to the south and west of this line. As a result, Serbian forces withdrew from Temesvár and the rest of northern Temes County in late July 1919 and the area was occupied by the Romanians in early August 1919. During this interregnum, on July 28, 1919, the day after Serbian

forces withdrew from Temesvár, the Temesvár Postal Directorate issued a set of 54 stamps overprinted “Bánát Bácska 1919”. Most of these overprints were on Hungarian issues of 1916-1918, though a dozen and a half of these values were either on stamps already overprinted “KÖZTÁRSASÁG” from November 1918 or the issue of Harvesters inscribed “MAGYAR POSTA” from January 1919. Three of the overprinted values were from the first and second Temesvár issues. A selection of the stamps from this issue is illustrated in Figure 8.



Figure 8: stamps from the Bánát Bácska 1919 issue of July 28, 1919.

The sole purpose of the issue was to raise money to pay the salaries of the employees of the Temesvár Postal Directorate. The stamps were sold in full sets of 54 or short sets of 33, with a limit of 5 sets per purchaser, in post offices in Temesvár. The remaining stamps were distributed to the employees, who in turn sold them to dealers and collectors. The postal use of these stamps is extremely rare and almost exclusively philatelic.

The Romanian authorities occupied Temesvár and the surrounding area in early August 1919. On August 17, the Temesvár Postal Directorate issued a fourth set of stamps, which is illustrated in Figure 9.



Figure 9: the stamps of the Temesvár issue under Romanian occupation.

Again, these stamps were sold in complete sets, with a limit of five sets per purchaser, at the main post office in Temesvár on August 17th and 18th, and again collectors lined up to purchase them. These stamps, though, had even less practical use than the previous issues as the rates for which they were surcharged were only in effect for another 3 days.

On August 20, 1919, the Romanian postal service took over the administration of post offices in the Romanian occupied Bánát and from this date Romanian postal tariffs were in effect, though one can find mail franked at the old Temesvár Directorate postal rates well into September 1919. Tables 3 and 4 set out the main Temesvár and Romanian postal tariffs.

Table 3: Temesvár and Romanian Inland Postal Rates

	Temesvár Postal Rates	Romanian Postal Rates		
	fillér	bani	fillér	
	1 July 1919 – 20 August 1919	1 June 1918 – 1 August 1920	1 January 1919 – 30 June 1919	1 July 1919 – 1 August 1920
Postcards	30f	10b	10f	20f
Letters/Lettercards	50f	15b	15f	30f
+ per 20grm	20f	15b	15f	30f
Printed Matter	10f	5b	5f	10f
Registration	1K	25b	25f	50f

Table 4: Temesvár and Romanian Foreign Postal Rates

	Temesvár Postal Rates	Romanian Postal Rates		
	fillér	bani	fillér	
	1 July 1919 – 20 August 1919	1 June 1918 – 1 August 1920	1 January 1919 – 30 June 1919	1 July 1919 – 1 August 1920
Postcards	30f	10b	10f	20f
Letters/Lettercards	75f	25b	25f	50f
+ per 20grm	[25f]	15b	15f	30f
Printed Matter	15f	5b	5f	10f
Registration	75f	25b	25f	50f

The Hungarian currency remained valid until September 10, 1920, but at an exchange rate of 1 bani = 2 fillér, which is reflected in Tables 3 and 4 above. Hungarian stamps and the Temesvár issues remained valid in the Romanian portion of the Bánát until March 15, 1920. Hungarian postal stationery remained valid until September 10, 1920, when the Hungarian currency was no longer legal tender.

When the Romanians occupied Temesvár in early August 1919, the operations of the Temesvár Postal Directorate were transferred to Nagybecskerek in south-central Torontál County. In the

Serbian occupied/SHS Kingdom portion of the Bánát and in the Bácska, the July 1, 1919 Temesvár Postal Directorate tariffs continued to be in effect. These rates were eventually replaced by the postal tariffs of the SHS Kingdom, but as Tønnes Ore notes in his “Banat and Bačka” monograph for the Yugoslavia Study Group (Monograph #4, Jugopošta #77, March 2006), “the actual date when this happened is unclear”. Tables 5 and 6 set out the main Temesvár and SHS Kingdom postal rates.

Table 5: Temesvár and SHS Kingdom Inland Postal Rates

	Temesvár Postal Rates	SHS Kingdom Postal Rates	
	fillér	fillér = vinar	
	1 July 1919 –	1 July 1919 – 15 May 1920	16 May 1920 – 15 April 1921
Postcards	30f	15f	60f
Letters/Lettercards	50f	30f	1K
+ per 20grm	20f	30f	60f
Printed Matter	10f	10f	20f
Registration	1K	60f	80f
Express	60f	1K	2K40

Table 6: Temesvár and SHS Kingdom Foreign Postal Rates

	Temesvár Postal Rates	SHS Kingdom Postal Rates	
	fillér	fillér = vinar	
	1 July 1919 –	30 August 1919 – 31 May 1920	1 June 1920 – 1 April 1921
Postcards	30f	30f	80f
Letters/Lettercards	75f	75f	2K
+ per 20grm	[25f]*	45f	1K20
Printed Matter	15f	15f	40f
Registration	75f	75f	2K
Express	1K		2K40

* Inferred from actual mailings.

Hungarian stamps, including those overprinted and surcharged by the Temesvár Postal Directorate, and postal stationery remained valid in the Serbian occupied/SHS Kingdom portion of the Bánát and in the Bácska. However, as inventories of these stamps ran down in November/December 1919, the SHS Kingdom postal authorities started to supply post offices in the area with stamps from the SHS “Chainbreaker” series, which were originally issued for use in Slovenia. These stamps were also supplied to the post offices in Croatia and Bosnia & Herzegovina as supplies of Hungarian and local issues ran low there. Zdenek Skok, in his exhibition on Exponet, “Slovenian Issues from 1919 and 1920 in Mixed Frankings” illustrates a number of uses of Slovenian Chainbreakers in the Bánát and Bácska from November and December 1919, the earliest of these

is in Bacsfoldavár on November 3, 1919. The others are Karlova (919.NOV.23), Hodsag (919.DEC.18), Zombor (919.DEC.19), Ujvidék (919.DEC.26), Bajmok (919.DEC.27) and Mélykút (919.DEC.31). Figure 10 illustrates two relatively early uses of Slovenian Chainbreakers in the the Bánát and Bácska.



Figure 10: a 30 vinar Chainbreaker on piece cancelled in Újvidék on December 30, 1919 and a 20 vinar Chainbreaker on a Hungarian postal money order cancelled January 23, 1920 in Pancsova.

In the absence of a definitive source with respect to when the Temesvár Postal Directorate postal tariffs were replaced by those of the SHS Kingdom, one is left with looking at actual mailings to get a sense of when this happened. Through January 1920, all of the mail that I have seen, or seen reference to, is posted at the Temesvár Postal Directorate rates. After May 15, 1920, when the new SHS Kingdom postal rates based on the para and Dinar came into effect, all of the mail that I have seen, or seen reference to, is posted at the SHS Kingdom rates. This latter date intuitively makes sense as the date for SHS Kingdom postal rates to have taken effect. However, based upon the evidence that I have collected from actual pieces of mail, I do not think this date is the correct point in time.

Tables 7 and 8, on the next page, list all of the mail that I have, or have found reference to, from the Serbian occupied/SHS Kingdom portion of the Bánát and the Bácska posted at the Temesvár Postal Directorate rates from December 1919 through March 1920 (Table 7) and posted at the SHS Kingdom rates during the period from the beginning of February through May 16, 1920 (Table 8). Given that SHS postal tariffs were significantly lower than the Temesvár Postal Directorate rates, the only entries in Table 7 that are indicative of the rate used are those items which are either registered or postage due – these would have had the going rate applied to them by a postal clerk in a post office. Other items such as regular postcards and letters could have been dropped in a post box and would have been processed as long as they were franked with sufficient postage; they are therefore not necessarily reflective of official postal tariffs.

Table 7: Mail Franked at Temesvár Rates, December 1919 to March 1920

Cancellation	Details	Source
919 DEC 2	Nagybecskerek to Pecs, postcard franked with 30f in Temesvár and Slovenian stamps vs Temesvár rate of 30f. [SHS rate = 15f]	<i>Ore (JP#91)</i>
919 DEC 16	Ujvidék to Sarajevo, registered letter franked with 1K50 in Temesvár, Croatian and Hungarian stamps vs Temesvár rate of 1K50. [SHS rate = 90f]	<i>Nagy (Ore)</i>
919 DEC -	Szabadka to Beograd (23.12.19), commercial letter franked with 50f in Hungarian stamps vs Temesvár rate of 50f. [SHS rate = 30f]	<i>Ore</i>
919 DEC 22	Pancsova to Usora in Bosnia, registered letter franked with 1K55 in Temesvár and Hungarian stamps vs Temesvár rate of 1K50. [SHS rate = 90f]	<i>Kohalmi</i>
919 DEC 22	Baja to Ószivacz in Bácska, letter franked with 50f Hungarian stamps vs the Temesvár rate of 50f. [SHS Rate = 30f]	<i>Lauer</i>
919 DEC 26	Ujvidék to Vienna, registered letter franked with 1K50 in Hungarian stamps vs Temesvár rate of 1K50. [SHS rate = 90f]	<i>Lauer</i>
920 JAN 6	Pancsova to Homokbálványos, unfranked postcard vs Temesvár rate of 30f, assessed 60f in postage due. [SHS rate = 15f]	<i>Ore</i>
920 FEB 20	Ófutam to Zavar in Czechoslovakia, postcard franked with 30f in Croatian stamps vs Temesvár rate of 30f. [SHS rate = 15f]	<i>de Leeuw van Weenen</i>
920 MAR 6	Zenta to Budapest, registered Hungarian postal stationery card franked with 1K50 in Temesvár stamps in addition to 10f indicia vs Temesvár rate of 1K30. [SHS rate = 75f]	<i>Nagy (Ore)</i>
920 MAR 14	Zombor to New York, registered letter franked with 1K75 in Slovenian stamps vs Temesvár foreign letter rate for 2 nd weight step of 1K75 (assuming that the additional amount for each weight step for foreign letters was 25f). [SHS rate = 1K95]	<i>Lauer</i>
920 MAR 26	Zombor to Vienna, Slovenian postal stationery card franked with 20v in Slovenian stamps in addition to the 10v indicia vs Temesvár rate of 30f. [SHS rate = 15f]	<i>eBay</i>

Table 8: Mail Franked at SHS Kingdom Rates February to May 1920

Cancellation	Details	Source
920 FEB 10	Fehértemplom to Zagreb, postcard franked with 5f in Hungarian and 10v in Slovenian stamps vs the SHS rate of 15f. (Temesvár rate = 30f.)	<i>Sevenhuijsen</i>
920 FEB 17	Zombor to Vienna, Hungarian postal stationery card franked with a 10v Slovenian postage due stamp (used as a regular postage stamp) in addition to the 10f indicia vs SHS rate of 15f. (Temesvár rate = 30f.)	<i>Lauer</i>
920 FEB 28	Nagybecskerek to Beocsin, registered commercial letter franked with 90f in Hungarian and Slovenian stamps vs SHS rate of 90f. (Temesvár rate = 1K50.)	<i>Ore</i>
920 MAR 3	Ujvidék to Pécs, Hungarian postal stationery card franked with a bisected 15v Slovenian stamp (7½v) in addition to the 10f indicia vs SHS rate of 15f. (Temesvár rate = 30f.)	<i>Ore</i>
920 APR 10	Szabadka to Zagreb, Hungarian postal stationery card franked with a 15v Slovenian stamp in addition to the 10f indicia vs SHS rate of 15f. (Temesvár rate = 30f.)	<i>Sevenhuijsen</i>
920 APR 11	Bacsfoldvár to Zombor, Hungarian postal stationery card franked with a 5v Slovenian stamp in addition to the 10f indicia vs SHS rate of 15f. (Temesvár rate = 30f.)	<i>Lauer</i>
920 APR 19	Szabadka to Ujverbász, registered express letter franked with 1K90 in Hungarian and Slovenian stamps vs SHS rate of 1K90. (Temesvár rate = 3K50.)	<i>Rogina</i>
920 MAJ 4	Ujvidék to Pancsova, Hungarian Tábori postcard surcharged 15f by the SHS Kingdom postal authorities in Croatia vs SHS rate of 15f. (Temesvár rate = 30f.)	<i>de Leeuw van Weenen</i>
920 MAJ 11	Szabadka to Szárcsa, letter franked with 31v/f in Hungarian and Slovenia stamps vs SHS rate of 30f. (Temesvár rate = 50f.)	<i>Skok</i>

Figures 11 and 12 illustrate two of the items in Table 7 to support the contention that the Temesvár Postal Directorate rates were in effect through December 1919.



Figure 11: a registered letter sent from Pancsova to Usora in Bosnia & Herzegovina on December 22, 1919 franked with 1K75 in Hungarian and Temesvár stamps to pay the 2nd weight step Temesvár registered inland letter rate of 1K70 (from the collection of Csaba L. Kohalmi).



Figure 12: a registered letter sent from Ujvidék to Vienna on December 26, 1919 franked with 1K50 in Hungarian stamps to pay the Temesvár registered inland letter rate of 1K50.

Tønnes Ore, in his monograph, also illustrates an unfranked postcard sent from Pancsova to Homokbálványos on January 6, 1920, which was assessed 60f in postage due consistent with the Temesvár postcard rate of 30f. The last piece of mail in Table 7 that is indicative of the postal rates in effect at the time is illustrated in Figure 13. It is a registered foreign letter sent from Zombor to New York on March 14, 1920 franked with 1K75 in Slovenian stamps to comply with the Temesvár rate for a 2nd weight step international letter of 1K75 (assuming that the weight increment for international letters was 25f for each additional 20 grams). The SHS Kingdom rate at the time for such a letter would have been 1K95.



Figure 13: a registered letter sent from Zombor to New York on March 14, 1920 franked with 1K75 in Slovenian stamps to pay the Temesvár 2nd weight step foreign registered letter rate of 1K75.

In Table 8, the relationship between items mailed and rates is the inverse of that in Table 7, in that SHS Kingdom rates were lower than Temesvár rates. Thus, any piece of mail that was not charged postage due is indicative of the postal tariffs being used. The first piece of mail processed at SHS Kingdom rates in Table 8 is a postcard from Főheretemplom to Zagreb sent on February 10, 1920 illustrated in Figure 14. The Temesvár postcard rate was 30f and there is no sign of any postage due being charged on this card.



Figure 14: a postcard sent from Főheretemplom to Zagreb on February 10, 1920 franked with 5f in Hungarian and 10v in Slovenian stamps to pay the SHS Kingdom postcard rate of 15f (from the collection of Johan Sevenhuijsen).

YUGOSLAVIA STUDY GROUP

Based in the UK, the Yugoslavia Study Group is the only society in the English-speaking world devoted to the study of Yugoslavia, its predecessor and successor states, with their strong connections to Hungarian, Austrian and German philately. YSG has around 60 members, half of whom are based outside the UK. All members receive the quarterly journal Jugopošta. The society has held a number of meetings on Zoom so far, with members from all over the world, which we intend to continue in the future.

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Tønnes Ore, in his monograph, illustrates two items franked at SHS Kingdom rates in February and March 1920: a registered commercial letter sent from Nagybecskerek to Beocsin franked with 50f in Hungarian and 40v in Slovenian stamps to pay the SHS Kingdom inland registered letter rate of 90f (Temesvár rate = 1K50); and a Hungarian postal stationery card uprated with a bisected 15v Slovenian stamp (7½v) to pay the SHS Kingdom postcard rate of 15f (Temesvár rate = 30f). Figures 15 and 16 illustrate two more examples of postcards sent at SHS Kingdom rates in April and early May 1920. In none of these cases was there any sign of postage due being charged.



Figure 15: a 10f Hungarian postal stationery card sent from Bacsfoldvár to Zombor on April 11, 1920 uprated with a 5v Slovenian stamp to pay the SHS Kingdom postcard rate of 15f.



Figure 16: a Hungarian Tábori postcard surcharged 15f by the SHS Kingdom postal authorities in Croatia to pay the SHS Kingdom postcard rate sent from Ujvidék to Pancsova on May 4, 1920 (from the collection of Paul de Leeuw van Weenen).

Figure 17 illustrates a registered express letter sent from Szabadka to Ujverbász on April 19, 1920 franked with 20f in Hungarian and 1K70 in Slovenian stamps to pay the SHS Kingdom rate for an inland registered express letter. A receiving strike for Ujverbász on April 20, 1920 is on the back of the envelope. The sender of this letter would have had to go into the post office to get it registered. The Temesvár rate for such a letter would have been 3K50.



Figure 17: a registered express letter sent from Szabadka to Ujverbász on April 19, 1920 franked with 20f in Hungarian and 1K70 in Slovenian stamps to pay the SHS Kingdom rate for an inland registered express letter (from the collection of Nenad Rogina, courtesy of William Maddocks).

Finally, Zdenek Skok, in his exhibition on Exponet, illustrates a letter sent from Szabadka to Szárca franked with 6f in Hungarian and 25v in Slovenian stamps to pay the SHS Kingdom inland letter rate of 30f. Again, there is no evidence of any postage due having been assessed.

From the evidence above, it would appear that the Temesvár Postal Directorate rates were in effect until March 15 1920, when all of stamp issues of the Temesvár Postal Directorate were invalidated in both Romania and the SHS Kingdom, but that during February and early March 1920, the post office tolerated mail franked at the SHS Kingdom rates and would register mail at the SHS Kingdom rate if requested by the sender. With the presentation of the draft terms for the Treaty of Trianon to the Hungarian delegation to the Paris Peace Conference on January 7, 1920, it must have been apparent to all concerned that this area would become part of the SHS Kingdom as a result of the Paris peace process. Given this, any value to maintaining the façade of Hungarian civil and postal administration in these territories, as represented by the Temesvár Postal Directorate rates, was becoming increasingly limited. Getting rid of them at the same time as the postal validity of the Temesvár issued stamps would seem to have a great deal of logic to it.

While all of the catalogues and other sources referenced agree that the various stamp issues of the Temesvár Postal Directorate were invalidated for postage in both Romania and the SHS Kingdom on March 15, 1920, there is a lack of consistency between various sources on the continued validity of Hungarian stamps and postal stationery beyond this date. Tønnes Ore, in his monograph, maintains that “*Hungarian stamps and stationery and locally made provisional occupation issues were made invalid in both countries*” (his emphasis) on March 15, 1920. Dan Grecu, in his article for the Stamps of Hungary, “Hungarian postal material used by the Romanian administration in the Banat and Transylvania – after 1919”, supports March 15, 1920 as the date that Hungarian stamps were invalidated in the Romanian portion of the Bánát. In contrast, Helmut Kobelbauer, in his Monograph for the Yugoslavia Study Group (Monograph #14, Jugopošta #128, December 2018), “The Slovenian Stamps of 1919 and 1920 in Mixed Frankings” indicates that the SHS postal authority in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, “was the only one that limited the validity of the previous stamps”. Roger Morell, in his article “On the trail of the 1919 overprints, Part 15: overprinted Hungarian stamped postal stationery” in the Stamps of Hungary (No. 290, June 2017) maintains that “[u]noverprinted and overprinted [Hungarian postal] stationery continued to be valid until 15 April 1921.” Again, one is forced to take a look at what actually happened on the ground to determine which of these assertions is more likely to be the correct one.

The registered express letter sent from Szabadka to Ujverbász cancelled April 19, 1920 illustrated in Figure 17 illustrates the continued use of Hungarian stamps after March 15, 1920. Zdenek Skok, in his Exponet exhibit, also illustrates a number of parcel cards and money order cards/cuttings from places in the Serbian occupied Bánát and Bácska that have Hungarian stamps used in the franking: Torzsa (March 26, 1920); Palanka (March 31, 1920); Fehértemplom (March 21, 1920); and Nagybecskerek (April 16, 1920), as well as the cover sent from Szabadka to Szárca in Torontál County cancelled on May 11, 1920 that is included in Table 8. Figures 18 and 19 illustrate two more examples of Hungarian stamps used to frank money order and parcel cards after March 15, 1920.



Figure 18: a cutting from a parcel card cancelled at Pancsova on March 22, 1920 (from the collection of Alan Soble).

WANTED

Examples of MBK #159A or #159B (Scott P8) on newspaper clippings, cut squares or wrappers showing a cancel from a town or city in Slovakia with a date between October 28, 1918 and February 28, 1919. Please contact James Buckner at wellseats@hotmail.com if interested in selling.



Figure 19: a cutting from a money order card cancelled at Zombor on April 13, 1920 (from the collection of Johan Sevenhuijsen).

If Hungarian stamps were invalidated for postal purposes in the Serbian occupied/SHS Kingdom portion of the Bánát and Bácska on March 15, 1920, clearly post-office clerks either didn't get the memo or chose to ignore it.

With respect to the validity of Hungarian postal stationery, in both the uprated Hungarian postal stationery card illustrated in Figure 15 (April 11, 1920) and the card illustrated in Figure 20, the Hungarian indicia of the card was required to pay the existing SHS Kingdom postcard rate.



Figure 20: a 10f Hungarian postal stationery card sent from Bácsordas to Ljubljana on May 23, 1920 uprated with a 50v Slovenian stamp to pay the current SHS Kingdom inland postcard rate of 60f (eBay).

In spite of his insistence that Hungarian postal stationery was invalidated on March 15, 1920, in his Monograph, Tonnes Ore illustrates a 10f Hungarian postal stationery card sent from Bácsalmás to Budapest on June 21, 1920 uprated with 50v in Slovenian stamps to comply with

the then current 15 para/60f SHS Kingdom inland postcard rate and a 35f Hungarian registered postal stationery envelope sent from Pancsova to Tuzla in Bosnia and Herzegovina on July 20, 1920 uprated with 1K65 in Slovenian stamps to pay the current SHS Kingdom rate for a registered inland letter of 1K80. In both cases, the Hungarian indicia was needed to pay the current postal tariff. Given the above examples, I would say that Roger Morell's research on the subject has yielded the correct answer, namely that unoverprinted Hungarian postal stationery remained valid until April 15, 1921.

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Postautalvány
1114 K - f-ről

azaz (a K-kat betűkkel, a f-eket számjegyekkel ismételve):

Czím: Egyetem utca 11. sz. Debrecen

Rendeltetési hely: Debrecen

Utoza, házsám vagy utolsó posta: Korona

Beszédett díj: 6 K f

A felvevő hivatal száma és a felvevő-asztal betűje: **3227**

A befizetés napja, illetve a hely- és kelti bélyegző lenyomata: 921 DEC 31 1921

Bevételi szám: 306

A felvevő postakalkulmazott aláírása: Post

A money order for 1114 Korona sent from Náduvár (3227) to Debrecen on December 31, 1921.

Kifizetési szám: 7310

Postautalvány
7310 K - f-ről

azaz (a K-kat betűkkel, a f-eket számjegyekkel ismételve):

Czím: Felvincs

Rendeltetési hely: Bonyhád

Utoza, házsám vagy utolsó posta: Lengyel

Beszédett díj: 30

(A postai ragasz)

Belföldi forgalomra.

A felvevő hivatal száma és a felvevő-asztal betűje: **5366**

A befizetés napja, illetve a hely- és kelti bélyegző lenyomata: 92 FEB 22

Bevételi szám: 95

A felvevő postakalkulmazott aláírása: Post

A money order for 7310 Korona sent from Lengyel (5366) to Bonyhád on February 22, 1922.